

Congressman Bobby Rush and Congresswoman Debbie Halvorson today announced that the U.S. Department of Energy approved an \$8 million dollar grant to Chicago's Illinois Institute of Technology to install a state-of-the-art wind turbine near Marseilles, Illinois.

"This funding is a great step towards putting Illinois on the cutting edge of wind energy technology," said Halvorson. "Every dollar we invest in green energy here at home means less jobs that can be outsourced overseas. It will mean cleaner air and water for our children, and an energy source made right here in America."

"I am pleased to congratulate the Illinois Institute of Technology, a world class institution from my congressional district, and their consortium partners on winning this \$8 million grant from the Department of Energy," said Rush. "This grant will allow the consortium to research wind energy and help America maintain its role as a world leader in testing and producing the most advanced and efficient wind turbines. As Congress continues its work on passing the American Clean Energy and Security Act this project will demonstrate the potential of wind energy and help lead us to our ultimate goal of making our country more energy independent."

The 1.5 megawatt turbine will allow researchers to test the performance and reliability of such power generating systems, and will lead to a new generation of more efficient and effective turbines. Administered through the Illinois Institute of Technology, the funding will also allow for the development of wind energy courses and fellowships offered to those on the masters and undergraduate level, which will provide the skills and expertise necessary for the green jobs of tomorrow.

The \$8 million in funding awarded to the Illinois Institute of Technology is part of a larger effort by the U.S. Department of Energy totaling up to \$24 million in financial support from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, also known as the stimulus bill. The funding will help the United States take another step in becoming the world leader in wind energy and create jobs here at home constructing and operating the next generation of energy resources.

"This funding will allow the energy of tomorrow to be created today," said Dr. Mohammad Shahidehpour, a Professor at Illinois Institute of Technology. "This investment will pay dividends in 21st century research and development that will be felt for generations to come."